

VARIETY among the IMPORTATIONS

Foreign Types Available on the British Market

BEECHCRAFT

IT is customary to think of all American machines for the private owner, and of the Beechcraft in particular, as being highly powered. This backward-staggered high-efficiency biplane is, of course, available with a number of units and in four different forms. The most powerful version has a 600 h.p. Wasp Junior, but at the other end of the scale it is possible to obtain it with the 225 h.p. and 285 h.p. Jacobs. The second of these types, known as the E.17 B., probably provides the best compromise between the typical British light aeroplane and the more powerful American types. This machine carries four persons and their luggage at a cruising speed of nearly 180 m.p.h. at 7,000ft. over 600 miles non-stop (or five persons and luggage over 275 miles), and its standard equipment includes a starter and a generator. The mileage figures given are "safe," since a 45-minute reserve of fuel is allowed. Seaplane and amphibian versions both of the Beechcraft biplane and model 18 twin Beech are available.

SPECIFICATION: Span, 32ft.; length, 26ft.; all-up weight, 3,350 lb.; weight empty, 2,080 lb.; cruising speed, 177 m.p.h.; landing speed, 45 m.p.h.; initial rate of climb, 1,200ft./min.; price, £2,870. Distributors: Surrey Flying Services, Ltd., Airport of London, Croydon, Surrey.

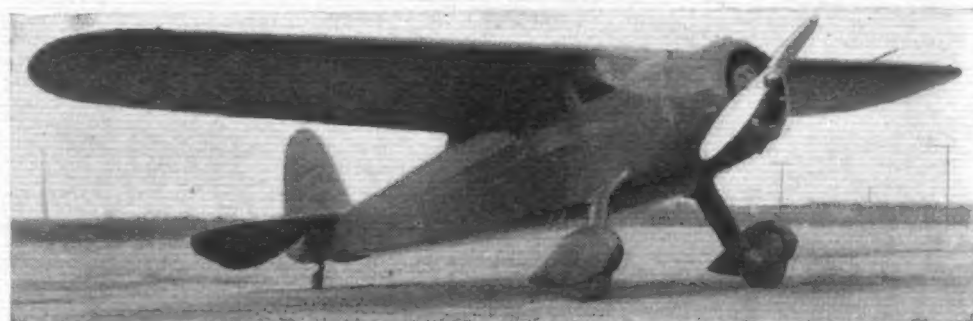
CESSNA

WHEN the first Cessna monoplane arrived in this country it surprised a number of people by its performance on the comparatively low power of its Warner Super Scarab. The new Airmaster model retains this performance, but has been improved in a number of important details. The payload, for instance, has been raised quite usefully, the undercarriage is wider, and the new flap gear, which consists simply of a single surface hinged on the underside of the fuselage to provide a plain air-brake, gives the pilot positive glide control without change-of-lift effects. The cabin has, in effect, been made more roomy and has lost its slightly claustrophobic atmosphere. Like the Beechcraft the Cessna is available in seaplane form.

SPECIFICATION: Span, 34ft. 2in.; length, 24ft. 8in.; all-up weight, 2,350 lb.; weight empty, 1,270 lb.; maximum speed, 162 m.p.h.; cruising speed, 143 m.p.h.; landing speed, 49 m.p.h.; initial rate of climb, 1,000ft./min.; cruising range, 525 miles. Distributors: Surrey Flying Services, Airport of London, Croydon, Surrey.

MESSERSCHMITT

SOMETHING really outstanding in luxury private owner aeroplanes is the Messerschmitt Taifun, which is a four-seater machine from the well-known German B.F.W. factory. With the help of slots and wide-area contour-changing flaps the speed range is an unusually large one, and the all-metal stressed-skin structure is of a tidiness likely to appeal



Four visitors (from top to bottom): Stinsons, the Cessna, a Taylorcraft—all from the States—and the V.E.F. J.12 from Latvia. The pictures emphasise the American predilection for high wings and spatted cantilever undercarriages.

to the enthusiast who can afford its necessarily high price. The undercarriage is retractable. The four passengers are seated in pairs and there are two extremely wide doors which, when opened, leave the whole interior free from obstruction. The engine is a 240 h.p. Argus A.S.10 C. inverted V-eight. For the moment the projected Gipsy Six-engined version is not available.

SPECIFICATION: Span, 34½ft.; length, 27ft.; all-up weight, 2,976 lb.; weight empty, 1,773 lb.; maximum speed, 189 m.p.h.; cruising speed, 161 m.p.h.; landing speed, 53 m.p.h.; range, 620 miles. Distributors: A.F.N., Ltd., Falcon Works, London Road, Isleworth, Middlesex.

PIPER

PROBABLY America's most popular light aeroplane (in the real meaning of the latter words) is the Piper J-3 Cub—erstwhile known as the Taylor Cub. It is a tandem high-wing two-seater cabin machine with a 40 h.p. Continental flat-four, and, in the customary American manner, it has fabric-covered wooden wings and a welded-steel tube fuselage. It is extremely easy to fly and at least two of these machines are being used for school work in this country.

SPECIFICATION: Span, 35ft. 2in.; length, 22ft. 5in.; all-up weight, 970 lb.; weight empty, 563 lb.; maximum speed, 87 m.p.h.; cruising speed, 74 m.p.h.;